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UNDP

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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF CHAD, NIGER, NIGERIA, AND THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

Creation of Four Forestry Centres around Lake Chad (Supplementary Assistance) (RAF/74/066)

Report of the Administrator*

Date of present approval :	May 1979
Starting date of project activities :	September 1975 (Including previous assistance)
Planned completion date :	December 1980
To be executed by :	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Government implementing agency :	Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC)
Estimated cost of assistance planned under present approval :	$350 500
Source of UNDP financing :	Indicative Planning Figure (IPF)

I. Background

1. In 1964, Chad, Niger, Nigeria and the United Republic of Cameroon established the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) as an instrument for the four countries' joint effort to develop the Lake Chad Basin on the basis of its water and other resources.

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* In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV) and subsequent authorizations of the UNDP Governing Council, reports are issued seriatim on the approval of UNDP assistance of $250,000 or more (including, if any, assistance financed by Government or by third-party cost sharing).

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2. In December 1973 the Basin was declared a disaster area because of the then prevailing drought, and LCBC prepared a Mid-Term Drought Programme, an interrelated group of projects in agriculture, livestock, forestry, fisheries and development of water resources. This project is one of several for which UNDP assistance was solicited and granted. It was originally approved in April 1/. A very gradual approach towards the full achievement of project objectives was adopted from the beginning, and UNDP inputs are limited.

3. It should be emphasized that the project, restricted to a limited area, is of a pilot nature and should, if successful, pave the way for similar efforts elsewhere in the Basin with financing from various sources. In 1977, a multi-donor mission with some 40 specialists 2/ was sent to the Basin area to identify projects for immediate implementation, while waiting for the results of a study on medium-and long-term strategy to be completed. The mission recommended continuation of this ongoing project. It is in accordance with this recommendation and at the request of LCBC that UNDP assistance is now being extended through 1980.

II. Objectives and activities

4. The immediate objective of the project is to develop proper forestry activities in the Basin by building up one forestry centre in each of the four LCBC countries. The principal activity of the centres is reafforestation with advice and assistance of the project personnel.

III. Inputs

5. UNDP will provide the services of two forestry experts and some equipment.

IV. Financial data

6. The expenditure components of the planned assistance are as follows :

	Previously approved	Present approval	Total approved
	$	$	$
Personnel	250 900	299 400	550 300
Equipment	107 300	38 500	145 800
Miscellaneous	35 500	12 600	48 100
	393 700	350 500	744 200

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1/ DP/PROJECTS/1178.

2/ Provided by France, Italy, Netherlands, the United States, the Economic Europeen Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa, FAO and UNDP.